

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled by this amendment without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 2-15 would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be considered allowable.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate in any subsequent Office Action whether or not the drawings that were filed on October 28, 2004 have been accepted. The Examiner indicates in item 10 of the Office Action that the drawings filed on May 29, 2001 are objected to. Applicants, however, as noted above, filed replacement sheets on October 28, 2004, in response to the Examiner's drawing objection in the Office Action dated July 28, 2004.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lundqvist et al. (US Patent No. 5,640,679). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 2. In addition thereto, Applicants have amended claims 4, 8, and 9 to be in independent form.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: August 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd., Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant